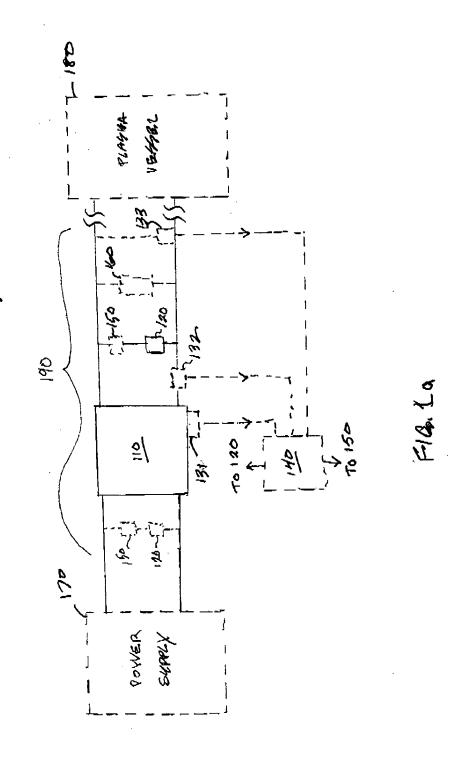
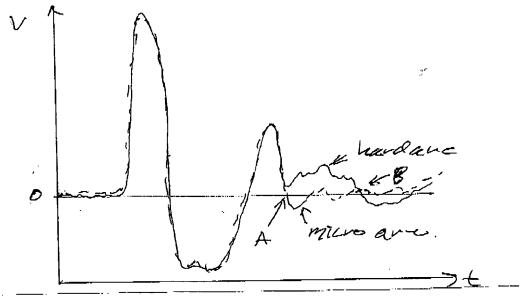
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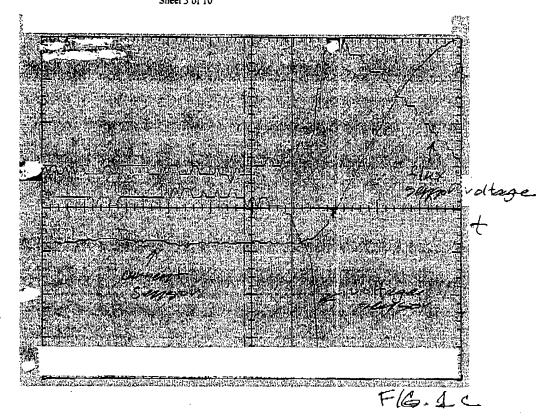


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F16. 16

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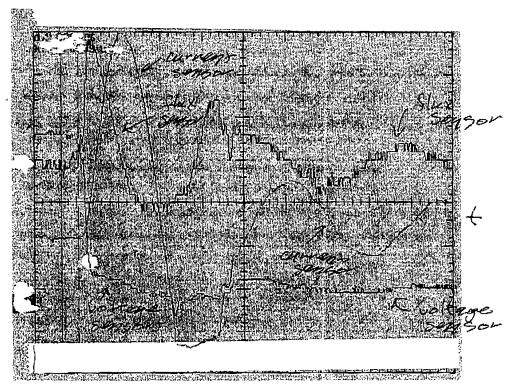
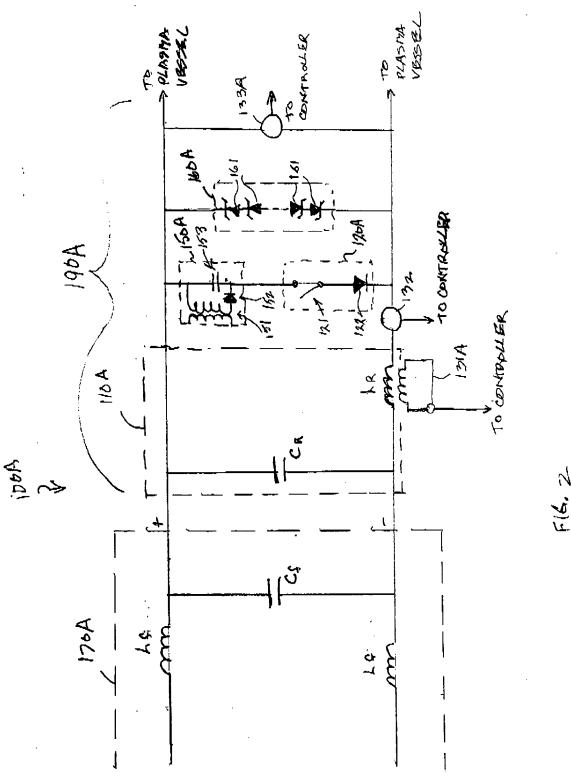


FIG. 1d

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300

providing a resonant circuit in electrical communication with an output of a power supply and an input of a plasma vessel (Step 310)

detecting a change in a signal that indicates a transition of a state of a plasma in the plasma vessel (Step 320)

shunting the resonant circuit after the change is detected to permit a resonance of the resonant circuit (Step 330)

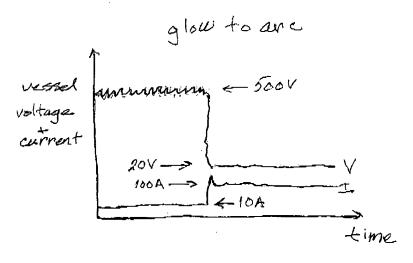
waiting for a half cycle before again shunting if the arc discharge plasma persists (Step 340)

repeating shunting and waiting until the change is no longer detected (Step 350)

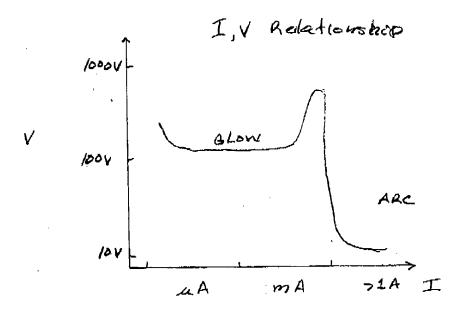
detecting a change in a second signal that indicates the transition of the state of the plasma or reignition of the plasma (Step 360)

reigniting the plasma after extinguishing the undesired plasma state (Step 370)

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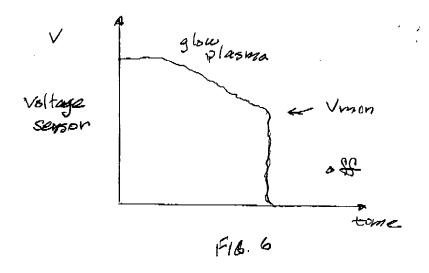


F/G, 4



FIB. 5

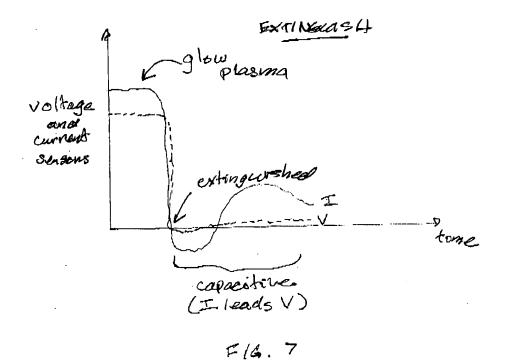
"Control of Plasma Transitions in Sputter Processing Systems" by Sellers Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned Filed: Herewith Atty Docket No.: ASX-064 (473/79) Jamie H. Rose (617) 248-7376 Sheet 7 of 10

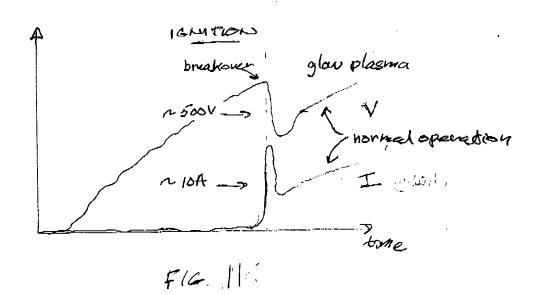


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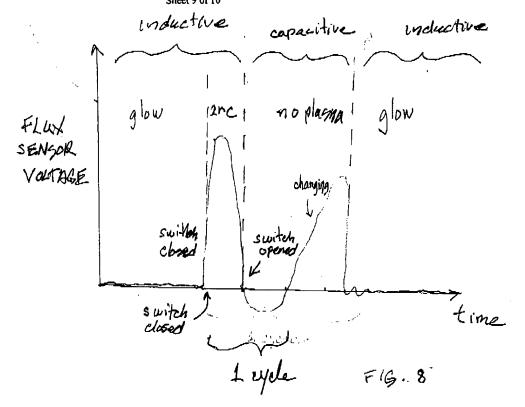
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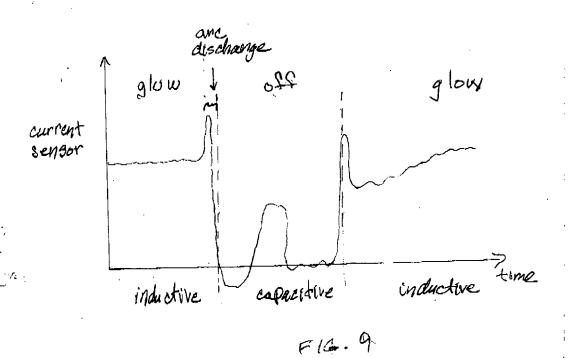
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1000

providing a resonant circuit in electrical communication with an output of a power supply and an input of a plasma vessel, the resonant circuit for storing and releasing energy (Step 1010)

 \downarrow

shunting the resonant circuit to increase an energy stored in the resonant circuit (Step 1020)

V

removing the shunt to direct the stored energy to the input of the plasma vessel to ignite the plasma in the plasma vessel (Step 1030)

J

sensing a signal associated with a state of a plasma in the plasma vessel (Step 1040)

1

shunting to extinguish a plasma in the plasma vessel if the signal indicates an undesired plasma state of the plasma in the plasma vessel (Step 1050)